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KENTUCKY.

By J. B. Lippincott



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KENTUCKY.

• **Kentucky**, a state of the American Union, in the great central or Mississippi Valley, lies between $36^{\circ} 30'$ and $39^{\circ} 6'$ N. lat. and between $82^{\circ} 3'$ and $89^{\circ} 30'$ W. long. Its greatest length from east to west is about 400 miles, its breadth from north to south about 175 miles; its area is 40,400 sq. m. The eastern and south-eastern parts of the state are mountainous, broken by the Cumberland Mountains (2000–3000 feet) and their offshoots. Westward from this region is a plateau sloping gradually toward the Ohio and the Mississippi rivers, which bound the state on the north and west. Large cypress-swamps still exist in some parts, especially in the south-west. Kentucky has a river boundary of more than 800 miles in length, including a stretch of nearly 650 miles along the Ohio, 50 miles on the Mississippi, and 120 on the Big Sandy. The Cumberland, Tennessee, Licking, and Kentucky rivers rise among the mountains in the east, and cross the state to the Ohio, whose other large tributaries, the Green and the Tradewater, rise in the west. The considerable extent of water thus available for navigation has lately

been increased by a system of river improvements. Besides these natural highways of commerce Kentucky has 2800 miles of railroad. Southward from the Ohio River extends a semicircular tract of land of Silurian formation; here the soil is produced by the disintegration of the fossiliferous blue limestone, and its fertility is unrivalled. This section is the famous Blue Grass (q.v.) country, in which the most exhausting crops, such as tobacco and hemp, may be raised continuously for a series of years without materially impairing the productive value of the soil, the constant crumbling of the fossiliferous shales restoring those constituents which have been withdrawn by the rich growth of vegetation. Surrounding the blue-grass country is a somewhat narrow belt of Devonian shale; its soil is also very fertile, and the lower strata contain petroleum. In the southern and south-eastern parts of the state there are other tracts of Devonian deposits, some of which yield heavy lubricating oils. The eastern, the western, and the southern portions of Kentucky belong mainly to the Carboniferous age, and the structure consists of sub-carboniferous limestone, or of true carboniferous deposits, with extensive coalfields. The coal-measures are the result of several alternate exposures and submersions, and average at least ten good beds of coal. Through the central part of the state is a strip of land which appears to have remained permanently raised above the sea during the Carboniferous period, and thus forms a divide between the eastern and the western coal-areas. The eastern coalfield is a prolongation of the Appalachian deposits, and is about

10,000 sq. m. in extent. The western belongs to the Illinois tract, and measures about 4000 sq. m. The coal is bituminous, and some excellent cannel occurs. Next in importance to coal are the iron ores, which are of excellent quality, and are found throughout a district of 20,000 sq. m. in extent. Neither the coal nor the iron deposits are worked as thoroughly as their quality and their abundance would seem to justify, but the output is increasing. Galena is found in some sections; valuable building-stones occur almost everywhere; and salt is obtained by boring in the coal and the oil regions.

Through the limestone formations the streams have cut deep gorges, and within a region of about 6000 sq. m. in the sub-carboniferous structure, much of the drainage is subterranean. The surface topography is peculiar, as there are many round or oval-shaped 'sinks' through which the water reaches the underground streams. The long-continued erosive action of the water has undermined a large part of this region, and produced the numerous and often extensive caverns which form one of the remarkable physical features of this state. Of these the best known, though possibly not the largest, is the Mammoth Cave (q.v.).

Kentucky is densely wooded, except in those places that are under cultivation; at present about two-thirds of the state is covered with virgin forests. Among the prevailing species of trees are the blue ash, the black walnut, various kinds of oak, the pine, the maple, the tulip-tree, and the sweet gum. Notwithstanding this large proportion of forest land,

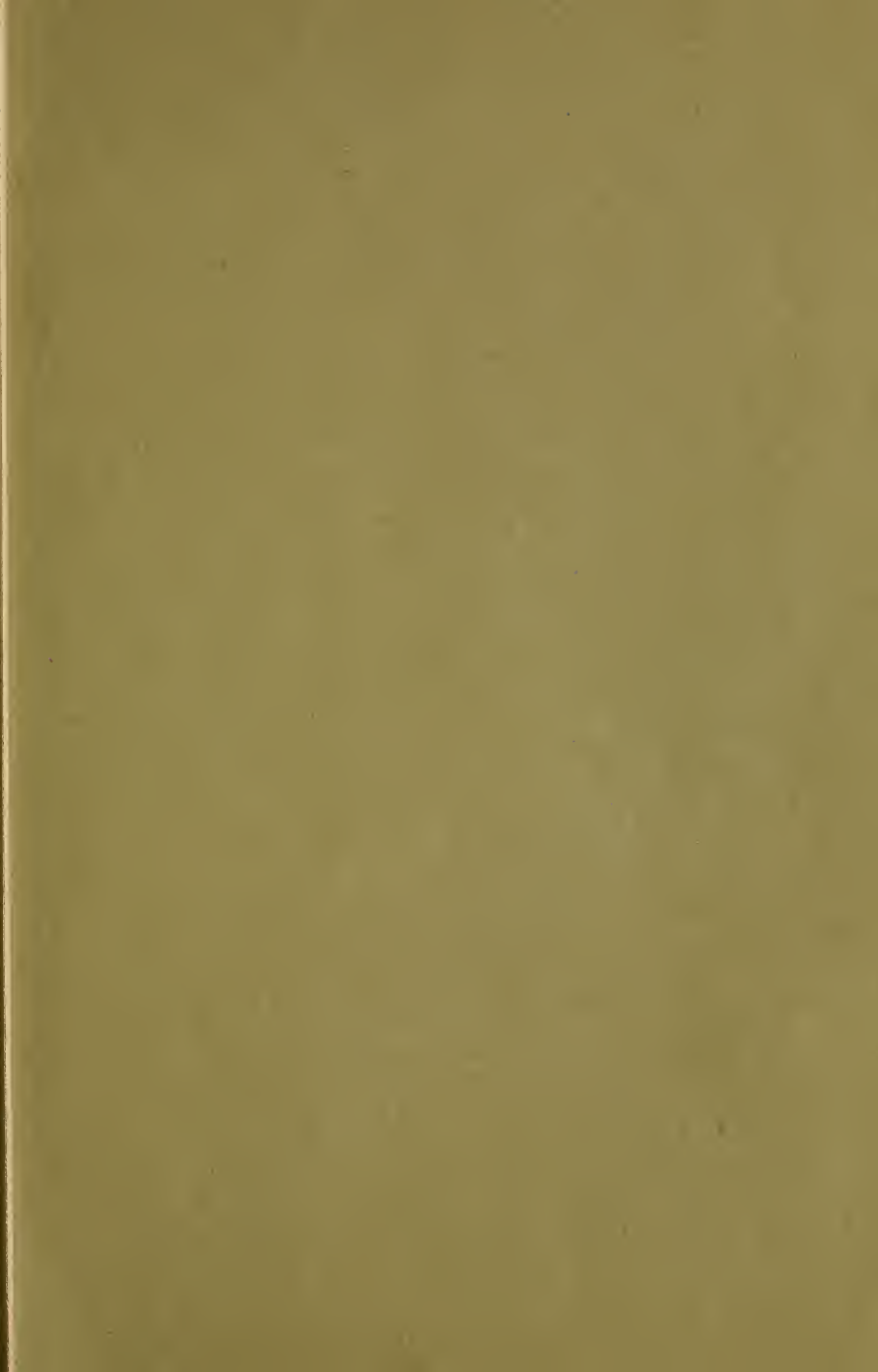
Kentucky has always been one of the leading agricultural states, and its products are noted for their variety. It is the principal tobacco-producing state in the union. The state has always been a centre for rearing domestic animals, and for breeding the finest grades of stock. A very large percentage of the successful racehorses of the United States have been bred in Kentucky. The peculiar advantages for stock-raising are due in part to the excellent quality of the grass, and in part to the mild salubrious climate, which permits the cattle to remain unhoused in the pastures during the greater part of the winter. Kentucky's principal manufacture is whisky, which is made in large quantities in the central section. The smelting and working of iron are the only other manufacturing industries of any considerable importance.

Kentucky is divided into 117 counties, and contains 19 cities and over 300 towns and villages. The most important cities are Louisville, Covington, Newport, Lexington, and Frankfort, the capital. The governor and the 38 state senators serve for four years, the 100 representatives for two. Besides two senators, Kentucky sends eleven representatives to congress. The state is practically out of debt, and has a permanent school fund of \$1,799,447. The enrolment of pupils in the common schools exceeds 300,000. There are several important colleges and schools of higher education, some of them affiliated with the Kentucky University at Lexington. Pop. of the state (1860) 1,155,684; (1880) 1,648,690.

History.—Numerous remains indicate that the

mound-builders lived here in considerable numbers ; but at the time of its first occupation by the whites this region seems to have been a hunting-ground visited by both the northern and the southern tribes of Indians, and not permanently occupied by settlements. The name Kentucky, signifying 'the dark and bloody ground,' is supposed to commemorate the conflicts between the various warlike tribes. One of the earliest pioneers was Daniel Boone (q.v.). This whole territory was included in the original grant to the colony of Virginia, and in 1776 received the name of Kentucky county. In 1790 it was made a separate territory of the United States, and in 1792 was admitted as a state. Kentucky did not secede during the civil war, and several campaigns were waged within its borders.





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